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# WORLD RESEARCH IN ALCOHOLISM

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for the professional staffs of Illinois State Hospitals

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261. ALLAN, F. D., and SWINYARD, C. A. (anatomy, Univ. of Utah Coll. of Med., Salt Lake City): Evaluation of tissue tolerance to ethyl alcohol by alterations in electroshock seizure threshold in rats. Paper delivered at annual session of Amer. Assn. of Anatomists, April 1949. (Study aided by grant from Utah State Committee for Study of Alcoholism.) "After determination of normal electroshock convulsive seizure threshold, ethyl alcohol was given daily for 20 weeks via stomach tube to a group of white rats. Dosage ranged from 100 to 4000 mg per kilogram of body weight. Similar measurements were made in untreated controls. The first dose of alcohol raised the electroshock seizure threshold from 20% in animals receiving 1000 mg per kilogram to virtually 100% increase in animals receiving 4000 mg per kilogram. Following this initial increase a progressive daily decrease occurred until at the end of the third week the electroshock seizure threshold was within normal range. The dose was doubled at the third week and again at the sixth week (max. dose 8000 mg per kilogram); this time, however, the max. elevation of seizure threshold was 20% and 10% respectively. Electroshock seizure threshold of the controls decreased approx. 25% during the first eight weeks and thereafter remained approx. constant. It has been shown that there is no significant difference in metabolism (Newman and Cutting; '35, '36) nor penetration into the central nervous system (Newman and Lehman; '38) in habituated and non-habituated animals; we therefore feel that the electroshock seizure threshold may be used as a graphic measure of tissue tolerance to ethyl alcohol." -- Abstr. in Anat. Rec.
62. ARIEFF, A.J. (Psychiatric Inst., Municipal Court of Chicago; and Dept. Nerv. Ment. Dis., Northwestern Univ. Med. Sch., Chicago, Ill.): Offenses and their psychiatric implications of municipal court cases. Quart. Bull. N. U. Med. Sch. 22: 139-44, 1949. 5 ref., 1 table. "Alcoholism. The greatest single source of patients in Psychiatric Institute belongs to group of chronic alcoholism with or without deterioration. They approximate 29% of total cases examined per year. One-half are found committable to a mental hospital, the other half not. Because of universality of drinking and attitude of society toward drinking, alcoholic is forgiven for abnormalities of behavior though he may actually be as ill as many individuals considered frankly psychotic. Society's lenient attitude often blocks the only avenue of cure, total abstinence, from being adopted by the drinker. Majority of patients with chronic alcoholism prove non-amenable to psychotherapy. In only a small percentage of patients who desire treatment is treatment of benefit. Most chronic drinkers even after correctional or hospital treatment resume their pathological drinking and thus a vicious cycle is perpetuated. This refers, of course, to the worst of chronic alcoholics, the kind seen at the Institute, which undoubtedly represents a small percentage of the total alcoholic picture. These have been referred to Psychiatric Institute because of anti-social behavior associated with their drinking. ...Biggest percentage of cures in alcoholism occurs when drinking is a symptom of some underlying difficulty or illness. ... Some complications of chronic alcoholism usually requiring hospital or institutional care: deterioration; paranoid state, frequently part of the deterioration; hallucinosis, acute or chronic; exacerbation of latent personality disorders. Many chronic alcoholics do not show gross abnormalities except during acute episodes. They cannot be adjudicated insane, and yet are not normal; they are sick and require a medical-psychiatric approach. ... In California, patients once committed for alcoholism are never discharged but are always on probation. When they violate probation they are rehospitalized. ... Suitable legislation to hospitalize chronic alcoholics ... would be a great step in study and treatment ... and a protection to society."
63. BUCK, R. E. (med., Univ. of Utah, Salt Lake City): Observations on alcoholic fat-



ty liver; the use of interval biopsy and liver function tests. J. Lab. clin. Med. 33: 555-64, 1948. "Liver biopsies and liver function tests were performed at intervals in seven selected cases of alcoholic fatty liver. Within a few weeks of dietary treatment the pathologic picture changed markedly in disappearance of amount of fat without much change in periportal fibrosis. Major change in liver function tests consisted in reduction in bromsulphalein retention, increase in serum albumin; thymol turbidity test was inconsistent, and cephalin-cholesterol flocculation test reverted to normal when positive." -- Schweppe in Excerpt. Med. VI.

4. BUTLER, R. E., and SARETT, H. P. (Nutrition Research Lab., Dept. Med., Tulane Univ. Sch. Med., New Orleans, La.): The effect of isocaloric substitution of alcohol for dietary carbohydrate upon the excretion of B vitamins in man. J. Nutrit. 35: 539-48, 1948. 21 ref. "Confirming previous studies by others on rats and pigeons, present authors found that replacing corn starch and sugar isocalorically by alcohol in an adequate diet increased urinary excretions of thiamin, N'-methylnicotinamide, and nicotinic acid in two human subjects. Urinary excretions of nitrogen, tryptophan, creatinine, pantothenic acid, and pteroylglutamic acid were not affected. The carbohydrate diet greatly increased urinary excretion of 4-pyridoxic acid, probably because pyridoxine was synthesized in the gut. This sparing action of alcohol (which provided 800 calories daily) on thiamin and nicotinic acid may not occur when excessive amts. of alcohol are consumed with a diet providing inadequate calories." -- Sinclair in Abstr. World Med.
5. CLOSE, K. (assoc. ed., Survey, 112 E. 19th St., New York 3, N.Y.): Hope for the alcoholic. New attitudes, community programs, government action and scientific research promise a more effective attack on alcoholism, a major public health problem. Survey 85: 202-6, 1949.
6. DAVIDSON, G. W. (Manhattan State Hospital, Ward's Island, N.Y.): Psychosomatic aspects of the Korsakoff syndrome. Psychiat. Quart. 22: 1-17, 1948. 23 ref. "Eight Korsakoff patients were submitted to sodium amytal interviews to ascertain extent to which personal material could be obtained to explain memory difficulties, especially confabulation. Patients were examined on admission, on the day before the treatment, and while under sodium amytal. Each received 4.5 to 6 grains intravenously. There were no untoward symptoms and none fell asleep or became drowsy. Their speech became thick within 15 min. of commencing the injection. Interviews under narcosis lasted about an hour. Patients appeared to sober up for about a half hour during interviews and showed considerably improved memory during that time, but returned to their confabulatory amnesic state when interviews ended. Patients showed following traits under sodium amytal: clinical syndrome was unchanged in 3 and grossly reversed in 5; euphoria changed to irritability, aggression and belligerency in the reversal cases, while their speech became spontaneous, amnesia lifted to a varying extent, and there was no confabulation. The original syndrome persisted in the other 3 cases. Attachment of the patient to and dependence upon the father was ventilated in all cases. ... Married patients occasionally or persistently denied marriage. Indifference was expressed toward women. ... Islands of memory were sometimes preserved. Relationship of sodium amytal findings with conclusions of Korsakoff are discussed and mechanism of syndromes outlined by applying concept of final common path of the total personality. ... Relationship of emotions to neurologic structures are discussed. The mammillary bodies are considered important to the Korsakoff syndrome. -- Abstr. in J. clin. Psychopath.
7. ELLIOTT, H., ALBERT, S., and BREMNER, W. (Queen Mary Veterans Hosp., Montreal, State of Illinois . Department of Public Welfare . Division of the Alienist



Que., Can.): A program for prefrontal lobotomy with report of effect on intractable pain. Treatment Serv. Bull. 3: 26-35, March 1948. 3 tables, 5 fig. "Alcoholics ... should not be considered for the operation."

268. HOFFMAN, J., and LISA, J. R. (path., City Hospital, Welfare Island, New York): Significance of clinical findings in cirrhosis of the liver. A study of 93 autopsied cases. Amer. J. med. Sci. 214: 525-8, 1947. "... Of the total, 61 were either heavy or moderate drinkers, 8 were teetotalers, and the habits of the remaining 24 were unknown."
269. HORWITZ, O. (Univ. of Pennsylvania Schl. Med., Philadelphia): Certain pharmacological properties of alcohol, nicotine and caffeine. J. Aviation Med. 19: 179-185A, 1948. 21 ref., 2 tables. Reviews systemic action of alcohol - central nervous system, cardiovascular system, gastrointestinal tract, liver, kidney.
270. JETTER, W. W. (path., Harvard Med. Sch., Boston, Mass.): The toxicology of alcohol. New Engl. J. Med. 240: 40-1, 1949. 10 ref. Reviews metabolism, lethal action, intoxicating effect in relation to blood concentration, and alcohol determination.
271. MANSON, M. P. (psychol., Univ. So. Calif., 6606 Encino Av., Van Nuys, Calif.): A psychometric analysis of psychopathic characteristics of alcoholics. J. cons. Psychol. 13: 111-8, 1949. 11 ref., 5 tables. "314 male alcoholics were compared with 222 male nonalcoholics on the Psychopathic Deviate Scale of the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory. Alcoholics made statistically higher scores than did nonalcoholics. Ratios of 11.8 to 1 for males, and 7.4 to 1 for females, were found to exist when alcoholics and nonalcoholics were compared for marked psychopathic characteristics. Approx. 50% of the alcoholics showed abnormal psychopathy. Approx. 4% of the nonalcoholics revealed marked psychopathic characteristics. 78% of the Psychopathic Deviate Scale were diagnostic at the 5% level of confidence or better. ... The Psychopathic Deviate Scale was compared with the Manson Evaluation as a diagnostic instrument for recognition of alcoholic personalities. ... Manson Evaluation made 14.8% more accurate predictions for the male groups and 5.5% more accurate predictions for the female groups. The Psychopathic Deviate Scale and Manson Evaluation correlated .62 for male groups and .54 for female groups. Alcoholics will tend to make high scores on both tests and nonalcoholics low scores on both tests."
272. MARCHAND, L. (Fac. Med., 47 rue Falguere, Paris, France): Les lésions microscopiques de l'encéphale dans le délirium tremens. A propos d'un article de M. Jean Piron (Contribution à l'étude du délirium tremens). (Microscopic lesions of the brain in delirium tremens. With reference to an article by Jean Piron.) J. belge Neurol. Psychiat. 47: 215-8, 1947. The pathologic anatomy of delirium tremens is summarized as follows: "Delirium tremens is conditioned by a diffuse, monsuppurative encephalitis, inflammatory and degenerative, without any tendency to demyelination. The acute lesions are added themselves to those caused by chronic alcoholic intoxication." — Quart. J. Stud. Alc.
273. MENNINGER, K. A. (Winter V. A. Hosp., Topeka, Kans.): Man Against Himself. New York, Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1938. 485 p. (Part III, Chapter 3. Alcohol addiction, 160-84) "Menninger relates the suicidal tendencies of chronic alcoholics and feels that some disturbed individuals achieve self-destruction by an irresistible addiction to repeated excessive drinking of alcohol. In speaking of their spasmodic attempts to save themselves, which he feels are usually bogus, he states that the reason does not lie in some wicked perverseness, but



in the deep hopelessness and despair from which every alcoholic secretly suffers. He reports patients who frequently start out with conscious suicidal intentions and end up by getting drunk, or those who become intoxicated first in order to get the courage to make a suicidal attempt, as if this was a less certain death than shooting. Many patients treated for alcohol addiction are preoccupied in their sober moments with thoughts of self-destruction, sometimes associated with a realization of their own unworthiness, sinfulness and incompetence. Thus, Menninger feels that addiction to alcohol may be thought of not as a disease but as a suicidal flight from disease - a disastrous attempt at self-cure of an unseen inner conflict, aggravated but not primarily caused by external conflict." -- Wallinga in Attempted suicide: a ten-year survey (Dis. nerv. Syst. 10: 15-20, 1949).

274. MENNINGER, W. C. (Menninger Clinic, Topeka, Kans.): Facts and statistics of significance for psychiatry. Bull. Menninger Clin. 12: 1-25, 1948. 112 ref. "Alcoholism. Incidence: Estimated number of chronic alcoholics (in U.S.) in 1945 was 750,000 defined as 'those who as a consequence of prolonged excessive drinking have developed a diagnosable bodily or mental disorder.' (Jellinek) Number of inebriates (including chronic alcoholics), 3,750,000. Cost: Total estimate of expenditures referable to inebriety in 1940, \$778,903,000, which the writer calls a 'crude estimate.' (Landis) A second estimate: 'for those who are unsatisfied unless costs can be defined in terms of dollars and cents, it has been estimated on the basis of 1940 data that alcoholism cost the American public about one billion dollars for that year. This estimate probably was conservative.' (Bacon) Twenty-five per cent of the arrests in 1942 (145,946 of 585,988) were for drunkenness (Statistical Abstr. of U.S., 1943, p. 95)
275. MINOGUE, S. J. (med. supt., Mental Hosp., Rydalmere, New South Wales): Alcoholics Anonymous. Med. J. Australia 1: 586-7, 1948. "An account of A. A., its history, aims, modus operandi, and success in a field which has always been a heartbreak to psychiatrists." -- F. C. Sumner in Psychol. Abstr.
276. MORREL, F., and SCHIFFERLI, P. (Clinique Universitaire de Psychiatrie, Bel-Air, Geneva, Switzerland): Le traitement de l'alcoolisme par la méthode dite de Bruel et Lecoq. (Treatment of alcoholism by the method of Bruel and Lecoq.) J. suisse Med. 79: 161-4, 1949. "The treatment of Bruel and Lecoq, which consists of intravenous injection of ethyl alcohol, is based on the assumption that delirium tremens occurs especially in chronic alcoholics suddenly deprived of alcohol. But from observation of 657 patients hospitalized at Bel-Air with delirium tremens, the authors found that delirium tremens occurred seven times more often during alcoholic excesses than after an interruption of several days. From this point of view the therapeutic value of alcohol for preventing delirium tremens is by no means proved."
277. RILEY, J. W., Jr.; MARDEN, C. F.; and LIFSHITZ, M. (sociol., Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, N. J.): The motivational pattern of drinking; based on the verbal responses of a cross-section sample of users of alcoholic beverages. Quart. J. Stud. Alc. 9: 353-62, 1948. "Of a sample of 2677, 65% indicated some drinking of alcoholic beverages. Reasons given for drinking were both social and individual, with more seasoned drinkers being likely to give individual reasons. Direct social pressure is more important in motivating women than men, younger than older people, and occasional rather than regular drinkers."--W.L. Wilkins in Psychol. Abstr.
278. RITCHIE, O. W. (sociol., Kent State Univ., Kent, Ohio): A sociohistorical survey of Alcoholics Anonymous. Quart. J. Stud. Alc. 9: 119-56, 1948. "For several years probation officers have been utilizing A. A. as a specialized source of



assistance in treatment of clients who are problem drinkers. It is doubtful, however, whether many officers have more than a vague understanding of the mechanics of the A. A. movement. Ritchie's fine, analytical article should be labeled a 'must' for every officer, since the author reports on the beginnings, structure, philosophy, basic principles and practices, membership requirements, financial support and organization of A. A. ... The remarkable A. A. story is a description of how scientific knowledge and spiritual inspiration have been synthesized to form an effective instrument for achievement of abstinence by those who have lost control of their drinking."--Roy Belter in Fed. Probation.

279. STEARNS, A. W., and ULLMAN, A. D. (Medford, Mass.): One thousand unsuccessful careers. Amer. J. Psychiat. 105: 801-10, 1949. 32 ref., 7 tables, 3 fig. (Study aided in part by funds supplied by United States Public Health Service, Rockefeller Foundation, and Grant Foundation.) An analysis of the population of Tewksbury (Mass.) State Hospital and Infirmary during the past 94 years. "Major diagnoses (Table 6): Although practically all the cases have some medical diagnosis, in the main the medical disabilities tend to be trivial. It is interesting to note that, despite the tendency to use another diagnosis when possible, in 37% the only diagnosis possible is alcoholism. Superficially, the most striking thing about the group is the devastating effect of alcohol. Sixty percent have had arrests for drunkenness (Table 7), the maximum for an individual being over 200. However, arrests for drunkenness are not as specific as had been supposed, as we find in these records many other evidences of social demoralization. Many long-time chronic alcoholics have never been arrested. ...Most were problem drinkers at the age of 30. They start coming to Tewksbury along in mid-life, primarily because they are down and out, and the immediate cause of this is often alcohol. ..."
280. WILLIAMS, R. J.; BERRY, L. J.; and BEERSTECHEER, E., Jr. (biochem., Univ. of Texas, Galveston): Individual metabolic patterns, alcoholism; genetotrophic diseases. Paper presented at 1949 meeting, National Academy of Sciences. "Distinctive metabolic patterns in individuals are probably due to commonplace partial genetic blocks which give rise to augmented requirements for specific nutrients and hence to altered metabolisms. Rats and mice with diverse genetic backgrounds exhibit individual responses with respect to alcohol consumption. Some abstain indefinitely, some consume moderately, some are irregular, others steady. Some animals consume relatively heavily beginning the first day, others only after several weeks. These responses are genetically controlled; animals with the same genetic background exhibit uniform responses. Alcoholic consumption in all these animals can be raised ultimately to a high level or reduced to nearly zero, depending on whether or not their nutritional needs are completely met. The alcoholic consumption of certain strains of animals and certain individual specimens is relatively difficult to reduce. Clear evidence is presented that diverse deficiencies in different animals are responsible for the creation of an appetite for alcohol. These findings suggest the broader concept of genetotrophic (geneto = genetic; trophic = nutritional) diseases of which alcoholism is thought to be one. On the basis of genetic variations one individual may suffer from nutritional disease on a diet wholly satisfactory for others. The possibility that genetotrophic factors are operative in numerous diseases of obscure etiology, e. g., allergies, mental diseases, cardiovascular diseases, arthritis, multiple sclerosis, drug addiction, and even cancer, requires exploration. Psychological and social influences doubtless play a role in alcoholism and in 'mental diseases' generally, but an investigation of biochemical factors demands far more emphasis than it has received." -- Abstr. in Science.



NEWS NOTES

281. ILLINOIS: Committee on Alcoholism, State Dept. of Pub. Welf., 912 S. Wood St., Chicago 12. Three research projects on antabus, the new antialcoholic drug developed in Denmark, will be started soon in Chicago under general supervision of Dr. A. J. Carlson, as a result of meeting held at Illinois Neuropsychiatric Institute April 26, addressed by Dr. Erik Glud of Copenhagen. Experiments will be conducted at 1) Illinois Dept. of Public Welfare, Veterans' Rehabilitation Center, Dr. David Slight, Supt.; 2) Chicago Committee on Alcoholism, Portal House, Lillian V. Inke, Exec. Dir.; 3) Chicago Board of Health, Chicago Intensive Treatment Center, Dr. Herman Bundesen, Health Commissioner.
282. Elgin State Hosp. and Committee on Alcoholism, State Dept. of Pub. Welf., are sponsoring project, Defense mechanisms in addictive drinkers, conducted by Hilde Richard, research psychol. Purpose: systematic comparison of defense mechanisms in addictive drinkers, psychoneurotics and rehabilitated alcoholics (abstinent for at least 2 yrs.) The three groups are controlled for age, sex, social status. Methods of investigation: case history, Rorschach, TAT, "Predicaments Test" (story completion test focused on frustrating situations).
283. At Chicago State Hospital, LeRoy A. Wauk, Superv. psychol., 6500 Irving Park Rd., the following projects are under way:
- a) Study on alcoholism with Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory. Leonard J. Rothfeld, psychol. Purpose: to find trend in trait scores, along with analysis of items. Subjects: 120 alcoholics. Method: item analysis and statistical treatment of trait scores.
  - b) Differential projective value of Thematic Apperception Test Cards in chronic alcoholics. Delores Gapinski, psychol. Analysis of TAT stories of 40 male alcoholics, age range 30-60. Of the total, 8 were diagnosed psychoneurosis with alcoholism, 2 chronic alcoholism with neurotic trends, the remaining 30 chronic alcoholism without psychosis. In analyzing each story, dominant trends were taken and an attempt made to find cards most productive of significant personality data. (Publication soon.)
  - c) Analysis of test data on 125 voluntary alcoholics. Use of group Rorschach technique. Psychology Staff.
284. MICHIGAN: Bill introduced. H.383 proposes commission on alcoholism to institute a program of public education on alcoholism as a disease, to make a survey of alcoholism in the state, and to report its findings with recommendations to the state legislature.
285. OHIO: Bill introduced. H.446 proposes commission to study problems created by chronic alcoholics in the state and to advise on feasibility of state institutions for their treatment.
286. OREGON: Bill introduced. H.530 proposes temperance and rehabilitation division of Oregon Liquor Control Commission which shall be authorized to continue, maintain and operate a rehabilitation clinic and agency for treatment of persons addicted to excessive use of alcoholic beverages.
287. RHODE ISLAND: Bill introduced. S.35 proposes commission for comprehensive study of problems of alcoholism in the state.